

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 /074 W
----- 024347

R 100450 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1909

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT ELAB FJ

SUBJECT: FIJI PARLIMANTARY CRISIS

1. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS PREVAILS IN FIJI
FOLLOWING FAILURE RESOLVE PROBLEM OVER WEEKEND. ISSUE
DERIVES FROM RULING BY SPEAKER R. D. PATEL TO ADJOURN
HOUSE SINE DIE ON APRIL 4, OVER TECHNICALITY RELATING TOO
TRADE DISPUTE BILL DESPITE FACT MOTION WAS DEFEATED BY MAJORITY.

2. WITH DEPUTY SPEAKER VIJAY SINGH PRESIDING AND OPPOSITION
ABSENT, HOUSE MET APRIL 5 TO AMEND AND CONFIRM APRIL 4 MINUTES.
DEADLOCK BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION REMAINS OVER
LEGALITY OF ADJOURNMENT AND CONFIRMATION MINUTES APRIL 4
SESSION.

3. COMMENT: ISSUE HAS EFFECTIVELY DELAYED CONSIDERATION
GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATION TO CONTROL TRADE UNIONS, PRICES AND
WAGES. AS LEGAL ARGUMENTS CONTINUE, ISSUE BECOMES BLURRED TO
PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT APPEARS INEFFECTIVE. SPEAKER PATEL HAS
MADE CONSTITUTIONAL ERROR AND THERE IS MOVE TO IMPEACH HIM.
THUS FAR, EFFORTS FIND FACE SAVING FORMULA HAVE FAILED. SINCE
FEW UNDERSTAND PARLIAMENTARY ISSUE AND FEWER HAVE READ
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PENDING LEGISLATION, OPPOSITION IS IN STRONG PUBLIC RELATIONS
POSITION. GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO PREPARE GROUNDWORK OR
EXPLAIN LEGISLATION AND PRIME MINISTER HAS SO FAR BEHAVED
WITH HIS USUAL INDIFFERENCE. MEANWHILE, MASS RALLY SCHEDULED
ALBERT PARK APRIL 10 TO HEAR LABOR LEADERS OPPOSE LEGISLATION.
RACIAL ANTAGONISMS HAVE EMERGED AND WILL GROW UNLESS
ISSUE IS SWIFTLY DEFUSED. SKIFF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SUVA00226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SUVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730439/aaaaidqh.tel
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971219
Subject: FIJI PARLIMANTARY CRISIS
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, PINT, FJ
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
WELLINGTON
Type: TE
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